

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

DHAKA HOSTS ENERGY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP FOR SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN

DHAKA, NOV 18 --- Women from across South Asia are taking part in a U.S. Government-sponsored workshop called the “Second Application Workshop on Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy.” This is a follow-up to a USAID “Women in Energy” workshop held in Kerala, India in April, 2008.

The Kerala workshop aimed to equip women from South Asia with the knowledge and skills to efficiently manage energy at the household and community level. The recommendations from the workshop, later known as the “Kerala Declaration,” established the South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) network, with a mandate to replicate best practices in energy efficiency throughout South Asia.

The Dhaka workshop will highlight energy conservation techniques, showcase best practices and share new information on energy management from the region. In addition, participants will observe live demonstrations of renewable energy and energy efficient appliances in the field. Participants will see first-hand the Solar Home System and an improved cook stove that uses 50% less fuel wood and increases household access to energy. These systems also create employment and income generating opportunities for ultra-poor women.

The USAID South Asia Regional Initiative for energy (USAID/SARI) program, UNDP, and the Bangladesh Renewable Energy Association are jointly sponsoring the workshop. USAID/SARI promotes energy security in South Asia by facilitating efficient utilization of regional energy resources, increasing transparent and profitable energy practice, mitigating the environmental impacts of energy production, and increasing regional access to clean energy.

The United States Government has provided more than \$5 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. The U.S. Government's assistance to Bangladesh includes support for free, fair and credible elections and more transparent and accountable governance; assistance for a better educated, healthier and more productive population; funding to increase economic opportunities through equitable economic growth; food assistance; and support for disaster mitigation.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>